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Kuipers Leads Charge to Bring Jobs to West Michigan

I recently spearheaded legislation that helps the auto industry as it transitions to include electric vehicle engineering and battery cell manufacturing an industry projected to reach \$18 billion annually by 2020.

Specifically, Public Acts 6 and 26 of 2009 allow Michigan to qualify for \$2 billion of federal competitive grants, aimed to make Michigan the center of advanced battery production.

In fact, four cell manufacturing projects have already been awarded the tax credits, including JCI, which will bring 550 jobs to our area! At the same time, taxpayer dollars are protected as the credits mandate results. If the firms fail to perform the work or create jobs, the credits will not be issued.

Along with doing all we can to help bring jobs and investment to Michigan, I want to make sure our state is at the forefront of this high-tech revolution.

Tax Incentive Transparency Bill Approved by House Panel

Similarly, the need for accountability and transparency in the business tax incentive process continues to be emphasized.

Senate Bill 71 would increase government transparency by requiring proof that various tax credits and abatements actually created the number of jobs originally claimed.

As Michigan continues to have the nation's highest employment rate, Senate Republicans remain firm that increased transparency and accountability is vital to ensure the state gets a solid return on its investment.